



MICHIGAN:

***A great place to live, work
and raise a family***



Highlights of Senate Republican Accomplishments

2003 - 2006

The Michigan Senate Republicans have long held the belief that state government should do all it can to help make Michigan a great place to live, work and raise a family. This document highlights the many accomplishments the Michigan Legislature has achieved in the past few years despite having a “divided government” with a Democratic governor and a Republican-controlled House and Senate.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Senate Republicans’ major accomplishments are listed in the following document, but here are a few key notes to consider from Senate activity during the current 4-year term:

- Senate Republicans have approved 139 measures to encourage job creation and retention, prepare for the new economy and improve Michigan’s competitiveness.
- Senate Republicans have approved 130 measures that made Michigan a better place to raise a family by increasing educational opportunities and strengthening public safety.
- Senate Republicans passed 34 measures to safeguard the Great Lakes and other vital natural resources for future generations of Michigan residents.

SESSION DAYS

Senate Republicans are proud of how we’ve been able to work with our colleagues in the House and with Gov. Granholm to continue moving Michigan forward rather than causing gridlock through partisan bickering.

This 4-year term of the Senate will see more session days than any of the past three 4-year terms. By July 26, 2006, we had held 396 session days for the term. That means that only half way through the year, we already have more session days completed than in any term since at least 1994.

PUBLIC ACTS

Much of the Legislature’s activity is judged by the number of laws enacted. This year has been a busy one based on that standard. By July 14 of 2006, we had 285 public acts. This is the fourth-highest number of public acts by July 14 since 1991.



Investing in Tomorrow: *Developing Michigan's Future*

Senate Republicans have approved 139 measures to encourage job creation and retention, prepare for the new economy and improve Michigan's competitiveness. Regaining our prosperity will require bold leadership and dramatic action. While we continue our efforts to make state government live within its means, we also must reduce regulatory burdens and other barriers to business success.

Encouraging Job Creation / Retention

- **Assist Michigan Manufacturers**

Legislative Republicans approved a \$600 million tax cut for manufacturing job providers to improve their competitive position. (*Public Acts 289-296 of 2005*)

- **Reauthorize & Strengthen MEGA**

Legislative Republicans reauthorized the Michigan Economic Growth Authority to continue the state's main tax-incentive granting authority used to spur economic development. Legislative Republicans also created a new MEGA category to provide tax credits for companies willing to buy firms in bankruptcy but keep existing employees on the job.
(*Public Acts 248-251 of 2003 & Public Act 281 & 283 of 2006*)

- **Create Jobs by Recruiting & Retaining Job Providers**

Legislative Republicans acted swiftly to provide incentives for the recruitment and retention of job providers. (*Public Acts 81 & 398 of 2004, Public Act 185 of 2005, & Public Acts 21, 117 & 188 of 2006*)

- **Enhance Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Credits**

Legislative Republicans provided additional incentives to make smaller redevelopment projects more feasible. (*Public Acts 111-113 & 224 of 2006*)

- **Accelerate CMI**

Legislative Republicans established a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to accelerate the cleanup of abandoned sites. (*Public Acts 252-253 of 2003*)

- **Provide Tax Relief for New Jobs**

Legislative Republicans provided tax relief for new jobs by offering a tax credit to small businesses that add jobs. (*Public Act 319 of 2004*)

- **Revitalize Tool & Die**

Legislative Republicans helped revitalize the state's floundering tool & die industry by providing tax relief through Tool & Die Recovery Zones.
(*Public Acts 264-266 & 273-274 of 2003 & Public Acts 275-276 of 2005*)

- **Pause Taxes for Start-Up Businesses**

Legislative Republicans exempted qualified start-up businesses, with local approval, from certain taxes during their first five years of business. *(Public Acts 126, 251-252, 321-324 of 2004)*

- **Smooth SBT Transition**

Legislative Republicans provided certainty for businesses holding brownfield and historical preservation tax credits as we transition away from the SBT. *(Public Act 240 of 2006)*

- **Increase Agricultural Processing**

Legislative Republicans authorized an additional 20 agricultural processing renaissance zones to help spur the creation of jobs and promote capital investment in rural communities across the state. *(Public Act 93 of 2003 & Public Act 284 of 2006)*

- **Promote Forestry Job Creation**

Legislative Republicans created 10 tax-free forestry renaissance zones to aid Michigan's struggling timber industry by enabling timber processors to reduce costs and improve their competitive position. *(Public Acts 123-125 of 2004 & Public Acts 304-305 of 2006)*

- **Expedite Public Works Programs**

Legislative Republicans expedited the 2002 voter-approved Sewer Bond Initiative to allow communities to start much-needed sewer projects sooner. *(Public Act 287 of 2003)*

- **Approve Local Tax Abatements**

Legislative Republicans acted swiftly to assist local governments in their efforts to recruit and retain job providers. *(Public Acts 118, 251 & 267 of 2005 & Public Act 22 of 2006)*

Stimulating Job Opportunities

- **Stimulate Economic Diversification (21st Century Jobs Program)**

Legislative Republicans approved securitizing a portion of Michigan's tobacco settlement payments to fund a variety of initiatives intended to spur economic diversification and increase job opportunities in Michigan. *(Public Acts 213, 215, 225-226 & 232 of 2005)*

- **Promote Life Sciences**

Legislative Republicans allocated \$15 million to life sciences in the fiscal year 2005 budget to increase Michigan's dedication to bringing new, innovative jobs to the state, and for Michigan to once again lead in technological innovation. *(Public Act 354 of 2004)*

- **Promote Venture Capital Investments**

Legislative Republicans repeatedly worked to create and enhance venture capital investment incentives to spur new investment in Michigan businesses, particularly in the high-tech and life sciences industries. *(Public Acts 296-297 of 2003 & Public Acts 233-234 of 2005)*

- **Increase Availability of Capital for High-Tech Business**

Legislative Republicans approved tax incentives for investment in start-up businesses that take advantage of the new high-tech economy. *(Public Act 214 of 2006)*

- **Promote Production & Use of Alternative Fuels**

Legislative Republicans promoted the development and use of renewable fuels in Michigan, specifically ethanol, biodiesel, and hydrogen. (*Public Acts 268-274 & 287 of 2006*)

- **Pave Way for Toyota & Thousands of Jobs**

Legislative Republicans acted swiftly to ensure surplus state property was sold to a bidder who would create thousands of jobs for Michigan residents. (*Public Act 326 of 2004*)

- **Eliminate Taxation of Federal and State Research Funds**

Legislative Republicans created a Single Business Tax deduction for state and federal business research grants. (*Public Act 258 of 2004*)

Improving Competitiveness of Job Providers

- **Repeatedly Balanced Budget While Rejecting Tax Increases**

Legislative Republicans balanced 4 budgets while rejecting tax increases proposed by Gov. Granholm. (*Executive Budgets for FY 04, 05, 06 & 07*)

- **Create a Job Provider Bill of Rights**

Legislative Republicans strengthened taxpayers' rights to improve the business climate in Michigan by ensuring that job providers wishing to expand or new businesses looking to locate in Michigan will be treated fairly by the Department of Treasury. (*Public Acts 5-13 of 2006*)

- **Create Post Labor Day School Start**

Legislative Republicans helped boost Michigan's tourism industry by requiring public schools to start after Labor Day. (*Public Act 144 of 2005*)

- **Eliminate Red Tape**

Legislative Republicans helped spur job creation and economic growth in Michigan by making the state's permitting process more efficient. (*Public Acts 259-284, 315 & 325 of 2004*)

- **Ease Small Business Start Up**

Legislative Republicans reduced filing fees for all businesses, created a permissive expedited fee option, and required that the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) develop and implement a system to accept business start-up filings electronically. (*Public Acts 212 & 217-220 of 2005*)

- **Create Opportunities for Renewed Economies (CORE)**

Legislative Republicans revitalized downtowns and commerce centers across Michigan to help create job opportunities.
(*Public Acts 196, 521 & 530 of 2004, Public Acts 50 & 287 of 2005 & Public Act 82 of 2006*)

- **Accelerate Urban Redevelopment**

Legislative Republicans aided urban redevelopment by establishing an authority to clear property titles and move tax reverted property to private ownership. (*Public Act 259-263 of 2003*)

- **Prevent SUTA Dumping**

Legislative Republicans closed a loophole that allowed some businesses to avoid paying their fair share of unemployment taxes. (*Public Acts 16-19 of 2005*)

- **Improve Access to Health Insurance**

Legislative Republicans repeatedly acted to improve access to health insurance and reduce costs to employers. Legislative Republicans made it easier and less expensive for employers to provide health insurance to their employees by eliminating the tax penalty on employer-funded health benefits. Legislative Republicans also made it more economical for small businesses to provide healthcare coverage. (*Public Act 59, 240 & 241 of 2003 & Public Act 306 of 2005*)

- **Protect Direct Wine Shipment**

Legislative Republicans permitted both in-state and out-of-state wineries to directly ship up to 1,500 cases of wine annually to consumers while ensuring safety provisions are in place to protect minors. (*Public Acts 268-269 of 2005*)

★ Preparing for the Future: ★ *Helping Michigan Families Prosper*

Senate Republicans enacted 130 new laws that made Michigan a better place to raise a family by increasing educational opportunities and strengthening public safety. All students deserve to learn skills that will help them find careers in the ever-changing 21st century economy. Those same students, and their families, should live in safe communities and have access to proper health care and consumer protections.

Enriching Education

- **Strengthen High School Graduation Requirements**

Legislative Republicans required that students must have four years of English and math, three years of science and social studies, one year of physical education or health, one year of fine or applied arts, two years of a foreign language, and use of the Internet for learning to better prepare students for the rigors of college and the 21st Century workforce. (*Public Acts 123-124 of 2006*)

- **Increase K-12 funding**

Legislative Republicans increased funding for K-12 education at the rate of inflation during two very tight budget years when many other services and programs were seeing funding reductions. (*Public Act 155 of 2005 & Senate Bill 1095 of 2006*)

- **Increase Higher Education Funding**

Legislative Republicans increased funding between 2.5% and 6% for the state's universities and increased funding to the MSU Extension and the Ag Experiment Station by 2%. (*SB 1088 of 2006*)

- **Protect College Scholarships**

Legislative Republicans repeatedly kept the Merit Scholarship intact for students attending Michigan institutions and saved the Michigan Tuition Grant Program despite Gov. Granholm's attack upon it for 4 consecutive years.

(*Public Act 186 of 2003, Public Act 352 of 2004, Public Act 154 of 2005 & Senate Bill 1088 of 2006*)

- **Bolster Academic Success**

Legislative Republicans helped prevent early learning failure and provided students with tools and skills for educational success focusing on students in kindergarten through third grade.

(*Public Acts 118-121 of 2006*)

- **Replace the MEAP**

Legislative Republicans replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test for high school juniors with a test based on a college entrance exam to help kids succeed in college and the workplace.

(*Public Acts 592-596 of 2004*)

- **Improve Parental Involvement**

Legislative Republicans required that a school board, or the board of directors of a public school academy, adopt and implement an involvement plan designed to encourage parental participation by the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year. *(Public Act 107 of 2004)*

Protecting Our Families

- **Crack Down on Methamphetamine (Meth)**

Legislative Republicans repeatedly attacked methamphetamine production in Michigan. We provided tools for law enforcement and increased penalties for those who participate in the production of meth. Legislative Republicans also protected children from exposure to methamphetamine and restricted the sale of cold medicines that contain pseudoephedrine and ephedrine as the sole active ingredient. *(Public Acts 307-311, & 313 of 2003, Public Act 87 of 2005, Public Acts 256, 263, 264 & 266 of 2006)*

- **Create Jessica's Law**

Legislative Republicans increased penalties for sex offenders and repeat sex offenders who prey on young children. *(Public Acts 165-172 of 2006)*

- **Increase Student Safety**

Legislative Republicans prohibited convicted sex offenders from working in schools or daycare centers and required background checks for all employees. *(Public Acts 121-136 & 138-139 of 2005)*

- **Protect Children from Violent Video Games**

Legislative Republicans protected children from the sale of ultra-violent or sexually explicit games. *(PA 108 of 2005)*

- **Create Children's Protection Registry**

Legislative Republicans provided parents, law enforcement and prosecutors the ability to protect children from the predators that are responsible for the ever-growing deluge of unsolicited and inappropriate e-mail that plagues the Internet. *(Public Act 241 of 2004)*

- **Stop False Amber Alerts**

Legislative Republicans made filing a false child abduction report a felony. *(Public Act 205 of 2005)*

- **Protect People from Cell Phone Cameras**

Legislative Republicans prohibited acts of electronic voyeurism, such as taking pictures with cell phones in locker rooms. *(Public Act 155 of 2004)*

- **Increase Child Support Collections**

Legislative Republicans increased child support collections on arrearages from parents failing to provide required child support. *(Public Acts 481-484 of 2004)*

- **Protect Grandparent Visitation**

Legislative Republicans allowed a child's grandparent to seek grandparenting time in certain situations. *(Public Act 542 of 2004)*

- **Improve Foster Care**

Legislative Republicans promoted permanent placements for children through meaningful legal representation of children in abuse and neglect cases. *(Public Acts 475-477 of 2004)*

- **Improve Adoption Process**

Legislative Republicans improved Michigan's adoption process to better serve children and families. *(Public Acts 470 & 486-487 of 2004)*

- **Strengthen the Office of Children's Ombudsman**

Legislative Republicans enhanced the effectiveness of the Office of the Children's Ombudsman by improving the complaint and investigations process and expanding the powers of the Ombudsman. *(Public Act 560 of 2004)*

- **Strengthen Drunk Driving Laws**

Legislative Republicans lowered the blood alcohol content to 0.08 for a person to be considered too intoxicated to drive. *(Public Acts 61 & 134 of 2003)*

- **Provide Patient Access to Personal Information**

Legislative Republicans established a procedure through which a patient or a patient's representative could gain timely access to a copy of the patient's medical record. Legislative Republicans also ensured health care facilities provide patients and former patients with their person information if requested. *(Public Acts 47-48 of 2004 & Public Act 38 of 2006)*

- **Create Kevin's Law**

Legislative Republicans created an outpatient treatment pathway as an alternative to hospitalization for individuals with severe mental illness. *(Public Acts 496-499 of 2004)*

- **Increase Options for Long Term Care**

Legislative Republicans increased the options for younger citizens who need long-term care but who do not meet the age requirements for residency in a Home for the Aged. *(Public Act 74 of 2004)*

- **Protect Children from Lead Poisoning**

Legislative Republicans protected children from lead poisoning by requiring screening. *(Public Acts 431-434 of 2004)*

Improving Michigan Communities & Government Services

- **Improve Local Roads**

Legislative Republicans allowed the Michigan Department of Transportation to leverage incoming federal dollars for local road projects with \$80 million of state transportation funds. *(Public Acts 139-140 of 2006)*

- **Establish Inaugural Advise & Consent Process**

Senate Republicans started fully using the advise and consent powers over gubernatorial appointments for the first time since the responsibility was granted in the 1963 Michigan Constitution. Nearly 1,000 appointees have been reviewed, providing a necessary check and balance to weed out unworthy appointments and ensure only the best appointees are allowed to serve the people of Michigan.

- **Prohibit Gaming Expansion**

Legislative Republicans opposed Gov. Granholm's efforts to unilaterally amend existing tribal gaming compacts and expand gaming in Michigan even though the voters approved a constitutional ban on new gaming unless approved by local voters. *(May, 2006)*

- **Provide for Self Protection Against Violent Attacks**

Legislative Republicans strengthened the law to allow people to protect themselves against violent attacks without fear of prosecution or lawsuits by criminals. *(Public Acts 309-314 of 2006)*

- **Protect Vulnerable Citizens**

Legislative Republicans prohibited convicted sex offenders from working in nursing homes, adult foster care facilities, and homes for the aged and required background checks for all employees. *(Public Acts 26-29 of 2006)*

- **Create Reverse 911**

Legislative Republicans created reverse 911, which would allow emergency service responders to use telephone numbers to contact residents regarding an imminent danger or crisis that may affect their health, safety or welfare. *(Public Act 515 of 2004)*

- **Create Drug Treatment Courts**

Legislative Republicans created drug treatment courts and juvenile drug treatment courts to offer supervised treatment programs for people who abused or were dependent on alcohol or a controlled substance. *(Public Act 226 of 2004)*

- **Respect Fallen Soldiers and Protect Their Families**

Legislative Republicans prohibited funeral protests within 500 feet of a funeral, memorial service, burial, or viewing. *(Public Acts 148-152 of 2006)*

- **Protect Military Parents and Their Children**

Legislative Republicans barred courts from permanently changing child custody while a parent is serving on active military duty. *(Public Acts 327-328 of 2005)*

- **Help America Vote Act — HAVA**

Legislative Republicans brought Michigan into compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2000 which seeks to strengthen the state's election process. *(Public Act 92 of 2004)*

- **Streamline Elections**

Legislative Republicans consolidated the dates for all elections in Michigan. *(Public Acts 299-306 of 2003)*

Offering Consumer & Worker Protection

- **Protect Payday Lending Customers**

Legislative Republicans protected consumers from payday lending institutions that were charging exorbitant interest rates. (*Public Act 224 of 2005*)

- **Increase the Minimum Wage**

Legislative Republicans increased the minimum wage. (*Public Act 81 of 2006*)

- **Reauthorize Telecommunications Law**

Legislative Republicans reauthorized the Telecommunications Act to provide more competition while ensuring continued consumer access to reasonably priced basic phone service. (*Public Act 58 of 2005*)

- **Create Tough Identity-Theft Protection Measures**

Legislative Republicans provided a comprehensive overhaul of Michigan's ID theft laws to help law enforcement officers track down and punish identity thieves and help victims restore their credit histories. (*Public Acts 452-462 of 2004*)

- **Prosecute Scam Artists** Legislative Republicans cracked down on scam artists who prey on vulnerable citizens. (*Public Act 154 of 2004*)



Protecting the Future: *Preserving Michigan's Environment*



Michigan is the Great Lakes State and our natural resources are the key to our future economy and our quality of life. Senate Republicans passed 34 measures to safeguard these resources for future generations of Michigan residents. The heritage we protect today will be an investment that reaps enormous dividends in the future.

Ensuring Private Property Rights

- **Protect Private Property Rights**

Legislative Republicans placed a proposed Constitutional amendment on the November ballot making it unconstitutional for the government to take private property and give it to a private developer. *(SJR E of 2006)*

Safeguarding Water and Water Quality

- **Regulate Water Withdrawals**

Legislative Republicans created the most comprehensive water withdrawal statute in the Great Lakes Basin in order to fully assess the impact of water withdrawals on both surface water and groundwater. *(Public Acts 33-37 of 2006)*

- **Defend Against Invasive Species**

Legislative Republicans protected Michigan's natural habitats from invasive species by prohibiting certain nonnative plants and animals. *(Public Acts 54 & 74-80 of 2005)*

- **Defend Against Ballast Water Discharge**

Legislative Republicans established a new regulatory process for guarding against discharges of ballast water from oceangoing vessels. *(Public Acts 32-33 of 2005)*

- **Protect the Great Lakes from Chemical Spills**

Legislative Republicans required a person responsible for releasing harmful materials into surface or groundwater to immediately report the spill to local authorities. *(Public Acts 142-143 of 2004)*

- **Protect Michigan's Aquifers**

Legislative Republicans required the Department of Environmental Quality to complete a mapping of groundwater resources in Michigan. *(Public Act 148 of 2003)*

Encouraging Prudent Land Use

- **Ban Foreign Trash**

Legislative Republicans implemented a ban on foreign municipal solid waste.
(*Public Acts 56-59 of 2006*)

- **Protect Open Spaces**

Legislative Republicans guaranteed public input and legislative oversight prior to the sale of any state park land. (*Public Acts 307-308 of 2006*)

- **Reinforce Michigan's Hunting Heritage**

Legislative Republicans opened the door for younger hunter involvement to help pass on Michigan's hunting heritage to the next generation. (*Public Act 282 of 2006*)

- **Restrict Out-of-State Waste**

Legislative Republicans required all Canadian and out-of-state waste to meet the same stringent standards Michigan has for its own waste. (*Public Acts 34, 36, 38-39, 41 & 43-44 of 2004*)

- **Streamline Land Division**

Legislative Republicans streamlined the land division plat approval process to aid in wise development and land use planning. (*Public Act 525 of 2004*)

★ Looking Toward the Future: ★ *Initiatives Underway*

In the final months of this legislative term, there are still many opportunities to move Michigan forward. Senate Republicans will work to approve the following important measures:

- **Reform School Employee Insurance and Retirement**

Senate Republicans have found a way to maintain high-quality healthcare benefits for school employees while reducing costs through pooling and ensuring a competitive marketplace. The Senate passed this package on Dec. 1, 2005. It is currently on the House calendar. *(Senate Bills 895-898 of 2006)*

- **Healthier Lifestyles**

Senate Republicans are working to create incentives to reward healthy behaviors as one way to decrease health costs. The bills establish parameters for insurance products to promote healthier lifestyles and ensure workers are treated fairly. The Senate passed SB 848-849 on May 9, 2006. They are currently on the House calendar. Senate Bills 980-987 are in the Senate Health Policy Committee. *(Senate Bills 848-849 & 980-987 of 2006)*

- **Replace the SBT with a Business Tax**

Legislative Republicans established a joint committee to make recommendations for a fair, pro-growth business tax that will replace the job-killing Single Business Tax. The Legislature will take action on the citizen petition to repeal the SBT in August.

- **Welfare Reform**

Legislative Republicans are working to improve Michigan's welfare programs so they are a path to self-sufficiency, not a shackle of dependency. This bill is currently in the House Family and Children Services Committee. *(House Bill 4121 of 2006)*

- **Restoring Minimum Wage Overtime Exemption**

Legislative Republicans have passed legislation to maintain existing overtime exemptions so businesses will not have to cut back the hours their employees work or move hundreds of thousands of jobs out of Michigan. However, House & Senate democrats have voted "no" on immediate effect for this bill. This no vote guts the bill and kills the effort to maintain the existing overtime exemptions when the minimum wage increases in October, 2006. This bill is on the Senate calendar. *(House Bill 6213 of 2006)*

VETOING CHANGE

How Gov. Granholm has blocked fundamental change needed in Michigan

Michigan is in the throes of an economic change that has left us trailing every other state in terms of economic growth and recovery. Senate Republicans have been trying to take bold steps to put Michigan residents back to work and move the state up from the bottom rung of the nation's economic ladder. Unfortunately, we often have been stymied by Gov. Jennifer Granholm's unwillingness to work with the Legislature.

Some vetoes are anticipated when different political parties are in control of the executive and legislative branches. But Gov. Granholm has vetoed 102 bills from January 2003 through July 2006. This is more vetoes in three-and-a-half years under a divided government than Gov. William Milliken did in the eight years he served with a divided government. (Milliken vetoed 77 bills.) In one year alone (2004), Gov. Granholm vetoed a record 54 bills. This one-year total is only one less than Gov. G. Mennen Williams vetoed during his entire 12 years as a Democratic governor with a Republican Legislature.

Gov. Granholm's vetoes have prevented attempts to change the status quo in Lansing. They have stopped attempts to reduce the size of government and change the culture of heavy regulation. And they have stalled Michigan's recovery by halting initiatives designed to position Michigan as more friendly to job creation and provide more job opportunities to Michigan residents in the new economy.

Below are examples of how Gov. Granholm's vetoes have blocked necessary and fundamental change needed in Michigan:

- Vetoed legislation to accelerate the elimination of the job-killing Single Business Tax. (HB 5743, vetoed March 2006)
- Vetoed legislation that would have eliminated the Single Business Tax for job providers when they hire new employees. (SB 1093, vetoed May 2004)

- Vetoed legislation that would have provided tax incentives for job providers to locate warehouse distribution centers in Michigan. (SB 175, vetoed November 2005)
- Vetoed legislation that would have reduced the taxes job providers pay on commercial rental property. Note that this legislation was tie-barred to other bills that in total would have provided approximately \$700 million in tax cuts to job providers. Because of the tie-bar, all of the bills in the package were effectively vetoed. (SB 5096, vetoed November 2005)
- Vetoed legislation that would have eliminated the stranglehold of state taxes for start-up businesses so they could invest in capital and jobs instead. (HBs 5335, 5341-5343, 5345, vetoed May 2004; SBs 863, 865, 867, 869, 872 and 875, vetoed May 2004)
- Vetoed legislation that would have prohibited onerous ergonomics rules for job providers beyond federal standards, which would create a burden in Michigan that job providers would not have in other states. (HB 5447, vetoed February 2006)
- Vetoed legislation that would have provided certainty to job providers by defining “willful” in the MIOSHA violations rather than allowing the definition to change based on the whim of the bureaucrat enforcing the rules. (SB 648, vetoed June 2004)
- Vetoed legislation that would have created the position of “manufacturing czar” to provide industrial job providers with a friend in state government who could help them cut through the red tape and accelerate job creation. (HB 5306, vetoed January 2004; SB 841, vetoed April 2004)
- Vetoed legislation that would have created the position of “small-business czar” to provide job providers with a friend in state government who could help them cut through the red tape and accelerate job creation. (SB 840, vetoed December 2003)
- Vetoed legislation that would have prevented municipalities from requiring job providers to pay workers more than in comparable cities and stifling job creation. (HB 4160, vetoed May 2004)
- Vetoed legislation that would have reduced the size of state government by consolidating the human resources departments for all state agencies. (HB 5190, vetoed April 2004)
- Vetoed legislation that would have improved job opportunities for Michigan’s youth by extending the maximum number of hours a minor can work. (SB 320, vetoed June 2004; SB 179, vetoed March 2006)

- Vetoed legislation to **help Michigan agriculture** by funding loans to farmers for qualified energy production, including methane gas digesters, which would also help the environment. *(SBs 953 and 955, vetoed November 2004)*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **reformed welfare** to help recipients improve their situation through job training and other programs that would lead to self-sufficiency. *(HBs 5438-5441 and SBs 892-893, vetoed December 2005).*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **eliminated the Board of State Canvassers ability to usurp the rights of the voters** and arbitrarily block petition initiatives from reaching the ballot. *(HB 4275, vetoed July 2005; HBs 5648-5650, vetoed May 2006; SBs 973-976, vetoed May 2006)*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **protected affordable long-term and adult foster care** for residents by not allowing state government to consider unionization when granting preferences to facilities. *(HBs 5744-5745 and SBs 1026-1028, vetoed March 2006)*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **given suburban residents a voice in how much they are charged for water and sewer services** provided by the city of Detroit. *(SB 195, vetoed March 2003; SB 372, vetoed March 2006)*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **improved emergency communications** statewide by allowing local units of government access to State Police radio towers. *(SB 293, vetoed July 2003)*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **protected Michigan's environment** by improving the state's poor recycling rate. *(SB 790 and 854, vetoed December 2004)*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **protected children's rights** in divorce cases by requiring parenting plans. *(SB 966, pocket veto in 2004)*
- Vetoed legislation **creating an authority in Wayne County to better address the needs of the mentally ill** and ensure more money was spent on client services and less on exorbitant administrative costs. *(SBs 1076 and 1079, vetoed December 2004)*
- Vetoed legislation that would have **allowed school districts to save money** by letting them join a cooperative purchasing program through the Department of Management and Budget. *(HB 4720, vetoed April 2004)*